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LUCE
PRESS CLIPPINGS

Hiatt Live: No Cheap Trick

Tour Spawns New Album

COUNTRY CLUB/By Dave Hoekstra

It's too early to tell if it will be the ultimate live album, but John Hiatt's next record certainly has the ultimate live album title: "Hiatt Comes Alive at Budokan."

He's serious.

"We're trying to beat the Woodstock album that comes out in November," said Hiatt, checking in last week from the road. He and his band the Guilty Dogs band open for Jackson Browne tonight at Poplar Creek.

Jackson Browne, John Hiatt and the Guilty Dogs

■ 7:30 tonight
■ Poplar Creek,
Illinois 59 and 72, Hoffman Estates
■ \$17.25 to \$29.75
■ (312) 559-1212

"A&M [his record company] is putting out 'Woodstock '94' too, so we're slotting this in for Oct. 15. We gotta have a big title."

The title, of course, is derived from the mega-selling "Frampton Comes Alive" and "Cheap Trick Live at Budokan."

In January, A&M began recording four months of Hiatt dates. With production from

Faith No More's Matt Wallace, mixing began on Aug. 1. Wallace produced Hiatt's most recent studio record, "Perfectly Good Guitar."

Hiatt's been on the road a year, his longest tour in almost a decade. "It's been great for me," he said. "I've been writing like a bat out of hell in hotel rooms everywhere. As far as inspiration, there's nothing like it."

Hiatt said the new songs are simple and broken down with a folksy flavor, but played with two guitars, bass and



John Hiatt, who plays tonight at Poplar Creek, is in the middle of his longest tour in a decade.

content, Hiatt remarked, "With a lot of the songs you couldn't assign them to a particular time. Some of the things could have happened 100 years ago, which I kind of like."

Although Woodstock is on his mind, Hiatt isn't exactly

children born under the stage," he cracked. "Remember when Wavy [Gravy] made the announcement about a baby being born? We became a city!"

"I'm trying to think. I probably was smoking dope in a park somewhere, wondering about life."

ON THE ROAD: Dubbed by Garth Brooks as "the Nolan Ryan of Country Music," Steve Wariner appears at 9 p.m. Aug. 20 at Drury Lane Oakbrook, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace. Tickets for the show, sponsored by US-99 radio, are \$9.99 (708-530-8300). The Indiana native will perform songs from last year's "Drive" album for Arista and old chestnuts like his passionate remake of Bob Luman's "Lonely Women Make Good Lovers." ... Bluegrass fiddler Vassar Clements fronts a trio at 9 p.m. Aug. 20 in the intimate confines of the Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace. Tickets are \$12 (312-478-4408). ... Nashville songwriter James House (Dwight Yoakam's "Ain't That Lonely Yet") appears at 9 that same night at Whiskey River, 1997 N. Clybourn. Cover is \$5 (312-528-3400).

CMA AWARDS: George Jones and Pam Tillis will host a news conference Tuesday in front of the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville to announce the final nominees for "The 28th Annual CMA Awards." The awards will be broadcast live by CBS-TV at 8 p.m. Oct. 5. Charmermeister Vince Gill will be the solo host of this year's awards ceremony after co-hosting the past two years.

HUGGY BEARS: That's the name of one of the wacky slow dances in the summerlong Marlboro Country Nights Dance Showdown '94 that culminates with December's National Championships in Arlington, Texas. Midwest regional finals will be held at 9 p.m. Aug. 17 at Cadillac Ranch, 1175 W. Lake St. in Bartlett (708-830-7200). Each competition includes three dances. Contestants are divided into groups of three couples to dance the required two-step and swing. All competing couples will then perform the Tush Push line dance, the third element of the competition, as one group. Don't laugh. First place payoff in the finals is \$10,000 in cash.